

THE 321ST INFANTRY

which had been occupied the day before by the Third (center) Battalion of the 322d Infantry, and had been filled by no troops of the relieving regiment, Major Schucker, on his own initiative, changed the direction of his battalion and threw it into the space between the other two battalions. This change, in effect, put the 321st Infantry into the same formation as the relieved regiment, three battalions on line, and made a compact line of battle of the regimental front. Without this change, the Third Battalion would have been left to clean out the southern half of Grimaucourt, with no troops to attack and clear the northern half of the village, and both the Third Battalion and the First would have been left exposed to fire on three sides.

After changing his direction, as described, the Commanding Officer, Second Battalion, pushed his advance with vigor to overtake the contested advance of the other two battalions. At 7:40 a. m. (7 hours and 40 minutes), Company G reported contact with Company M on its right. At 8:00 a. m. (8 hours) Company H reported contact with Company A on its left. At 9:00 a. m. (9 hours) messages received from Commanding Officer, Company H: "First Battalion not advancing. Am pushing ahead keeping in touch with Company G."

At 9:15 a. m. (9 hours and 15 minutes) the battalion commander, seeing that his assaulting companies were about to endanger their flanks